



Nathaniel Smith, MD, MPH, Director and State Health Officer

**Communicable Diseases/Epidemiology
Influenza Weekly Report
Arkansas 2015-2016**

Week Ending Saturday 01/23/2016

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During flu season the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) produces this Weekly Influenza Report for clinicians. The report provides information on flu activity in the state. The report also compares influenza-like illness (ILI) in Arkansas to activity in the US. ADH receives detailed reports of only a small fraction of flu cases. Therefore, it is important to understand that the information in the weekly update is representative of the timing and location of activity, but it does not reflect the overall burden of disease. It is presumed that there are many more people actually affected than the report shows.

Report Key points:

- Arkansas reported “Local” activity to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for Week 3.
- Since October 4, 2015, over 900 positive influenza antigen tests have been reported to ADH by health care providers. Week 3 reports were received from Arkansas, Baxter, Benton, Carroll, Clark, Columbia, Craighead, Crittenden, Dallas, Faulkner, Franklin, Garland, Grant, Greene, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Lee, Lonoke, Mississippi, Pope, Pulaski, Randolph, Saline, Scott, Searcy, Sebastian, St. Francis, Union, Van Buren, White, and Woodruff,
- Among flu antigen tests that can distinguish between Influenza A and B strains, 51 percent were A, and 49 percent were B.
- Almost 4 percent of patients visiting emergency rooms last week were there for ILI. About 3 percent were of outpatient visits were for ILI.
- The average school absenteeism rate last week was 7.3 percent.
- To date three influenza-related deaths have been reported in Arkansas this flu season. These flu deaths occurred in adults.
- For Week 2, the geographic spread of influenza in three states was reported as widespread; Puerto Rico and 10 states reported regional activity; Guam and 12 states reported local activity; the U.S. Virgin Islands and 24 states reported sporadic activity; DC and one state reported no influenza activity.
- The proportion of deaths in the U.S. attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) is at 6.5 percent, and it continues to be below the epidemic threshold of 7.4 percent. This information is based on data available on January 21 of the deaths occurred during the week ending January 2, 2016 through the National Center for Health Statistics Mortality Surveillance System and the 122 Cities Mortality Reporting System.
- You can view the weekly influenza report during the influenza season at:
<http://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programsServices/infectiousDisease/Immunizations/SeasonalFlu/Pages/FluReport.aspx>

For Additional National and International Influenza Surveillance Information:

World Health Organization (WHO): http://www.who.int/influenza/gisrs_laboratory/flunet/en/index.html.

CDC - Seasonal Influenza (Flu) - Weekly Report: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>

Flu near you: <https://flunearyou.org/>. Please sign up and forward to your staff!

2015-2016 Influenza CD/Epi Weekly Report (Week 3: 01/17/16 - 01/23/16)

Death Report for Week 3

- Deaths from all causes: 509
- Deaths due to Pneumonia: 47
- PCR confirmed Flu Deaths: 0
- Death Certificate or Flu Antigen only: 1

Cumulative Flu Deaths since 10/04/2015

- PCR confirmed Flu deaths: 0
- Death Certificate or Flu Antigen only: 3
- Cumulative Flu deaths: 3

ER Visits*

- Week Ending: 01/23/2016**
Weighted Average: 3.9% (34 Hospitals)
– Total Visits: 10,970
– Visits with ILI: 432
- Previous Week**
Weighted Average: 5.4% (36 Hospitals)
– Total Visits: 14,123
– Visits with ILI: 766

*% is the number of ILI visits*100/Total Visits

Total Flu-Related Hospital Admissions

- PCR Confirmed:**
– Cumulative: 2
– Week ending 01/23/2016: 0
- ILI or Antigen Tested (Provisional):**
– Cumulative: 298
– Week ending 01/23/2016: 11

Weekly Arkansas ILI Intensity Level Reported by Sentinel Providers



PCR Lab Confirmed Influenza

- Total Cases since 10/4/2015: 8
- Week Ending 01/23/2016: 1

PCR Tests	ADH Lab Week 3	Other Labs Week 3	Cumulative Cases Since 10/4/2015
A+	0	0	2
B+	0	0	0
B/Victoria	0	0	0
B/ Yamagata	0	0	0
H1N1+	0	0	3
H3+	1	0	3
Unsubtypable	0	0	0
Total	1	0	8
Negative	2	--	

PCR Confirmed Influenza Cases since 10/4/2015

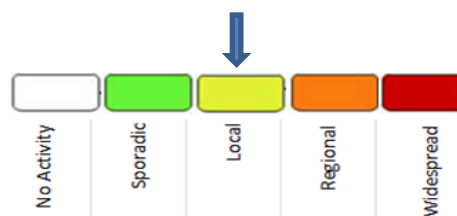
Age Groups	PCR+	Hospitalized	Deaths
0-4 yr.	0	0	0
5-18 yr.	2	1	0
19-24 yr.	2	1	0
25-49 yr.	1	0	0
50-64 yr.	1	0	0
>= 65 yr.	2	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0
Total	8	2	0

School Absenteeism*

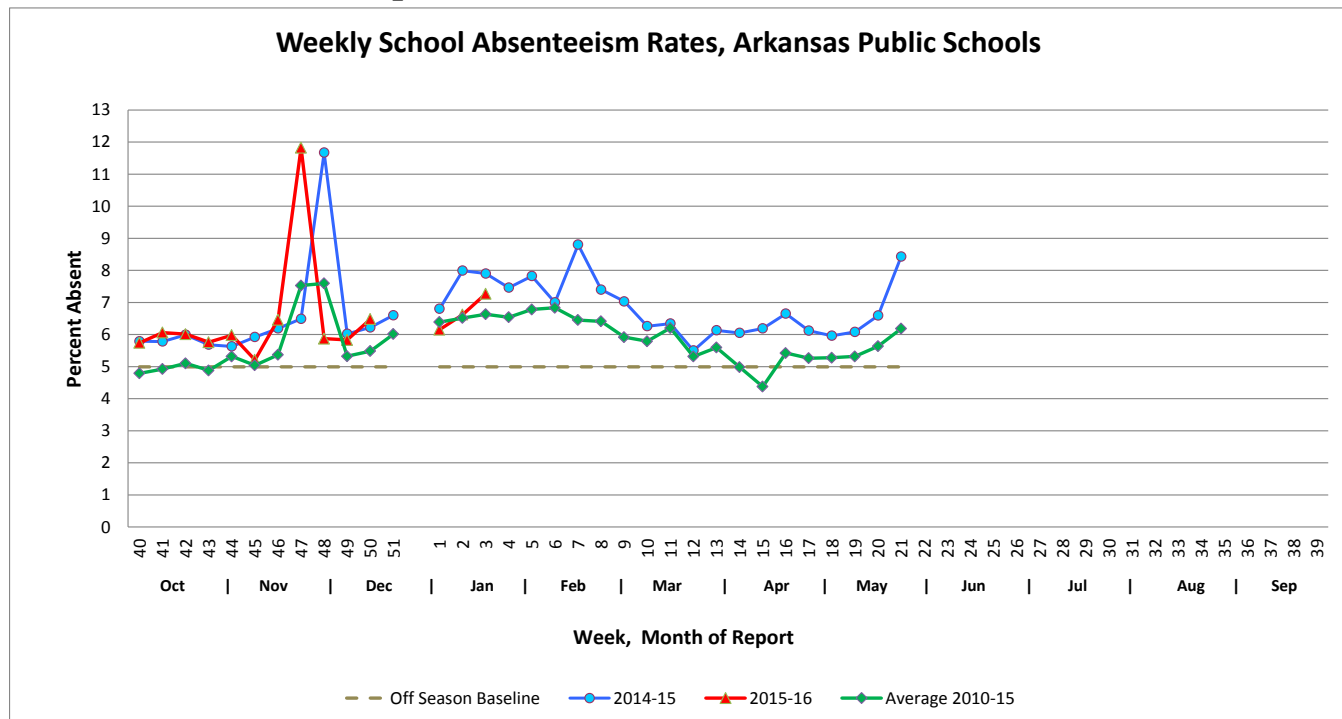
- Week Ending: 01/23/2016
– Percent Absent: 7.27%
– Previous week: 6.62%

* Average daily absenteeism for all public schools during this reporting week.

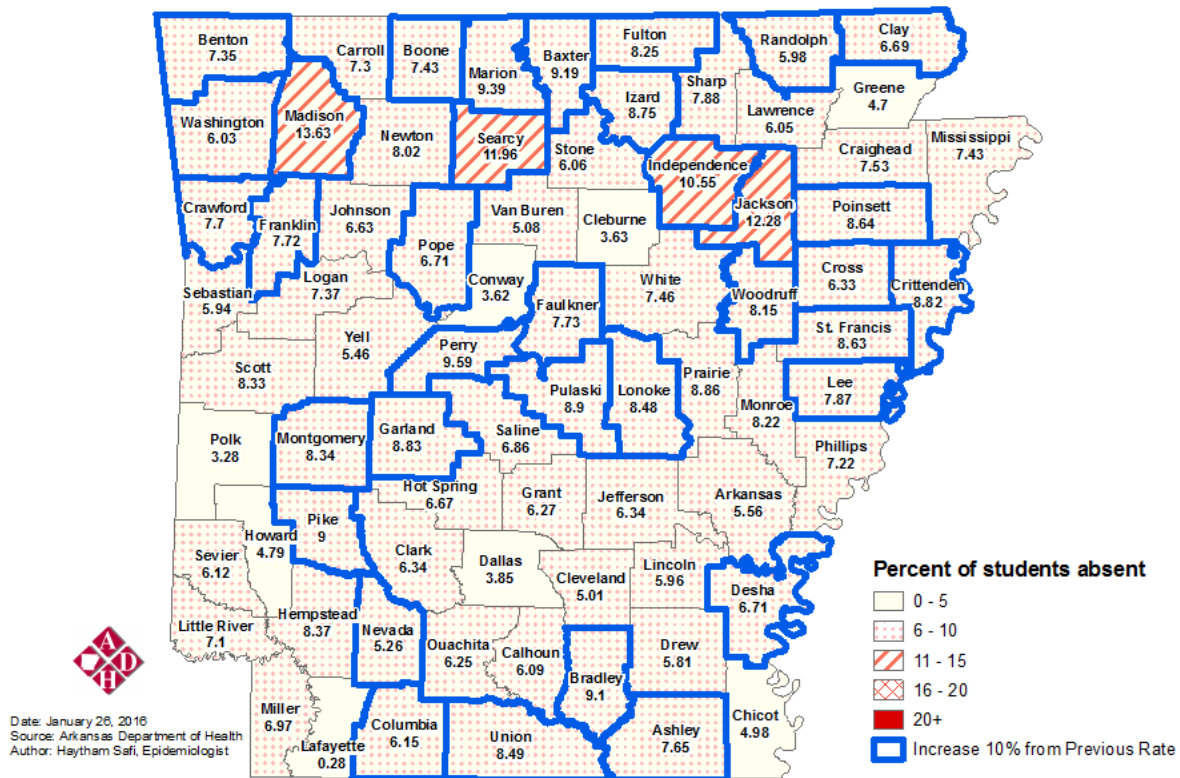
Geographic ILI Activity Level Reported for Week 3:



Schools Absenteeism Report:

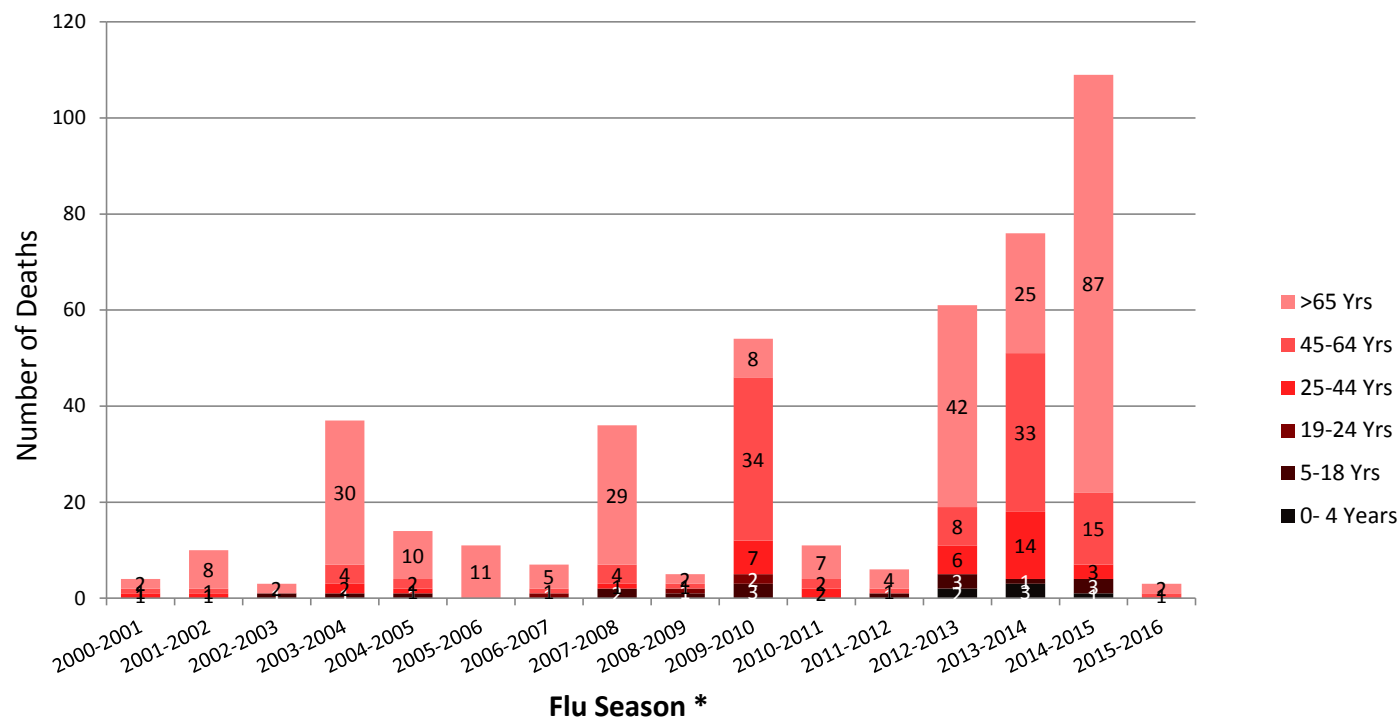


School Absenteeism Rate per County, Arkansas 2015-2016 Percent Absent for Week Ending 1/23/2015



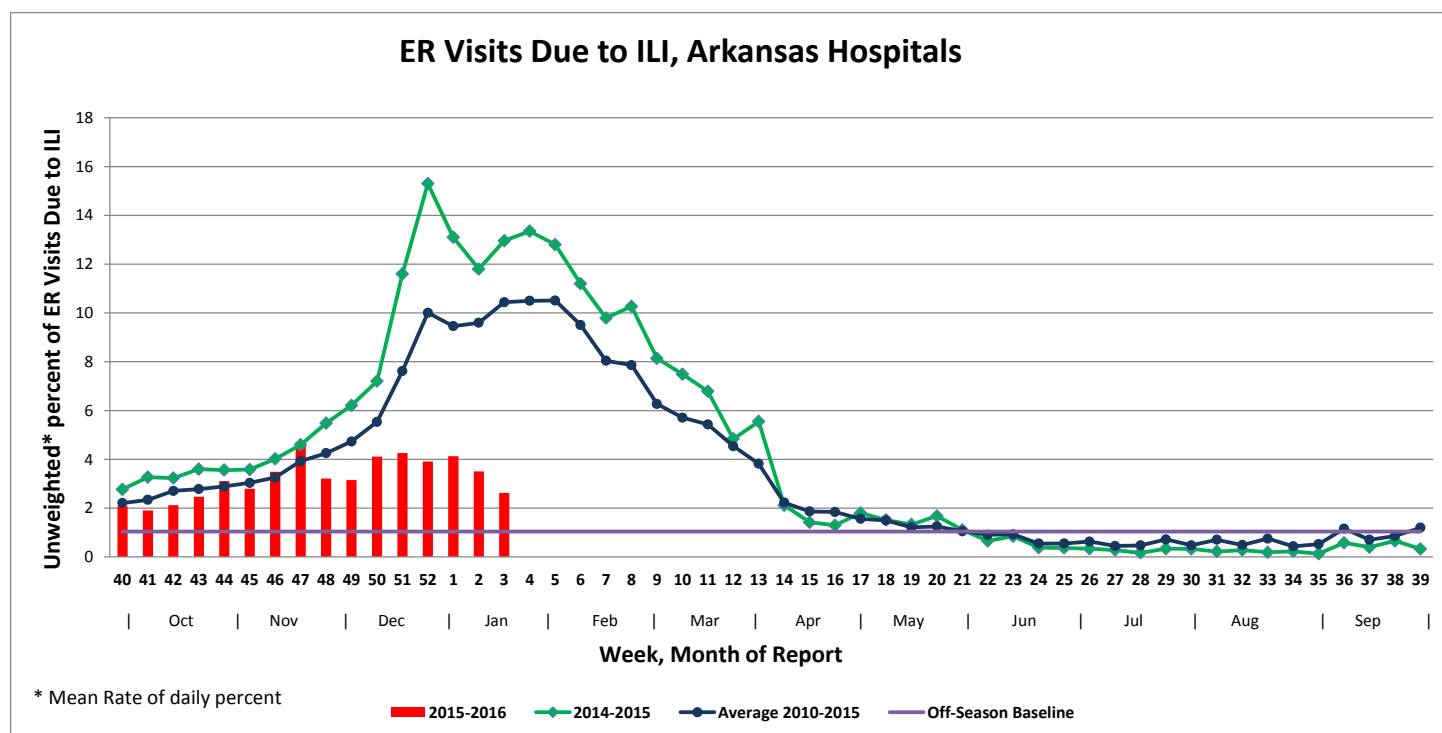
Influenza Mortality by Age Group, Arkansas 2000-2016 (Provisional)

Report Updated: 01/26/2015

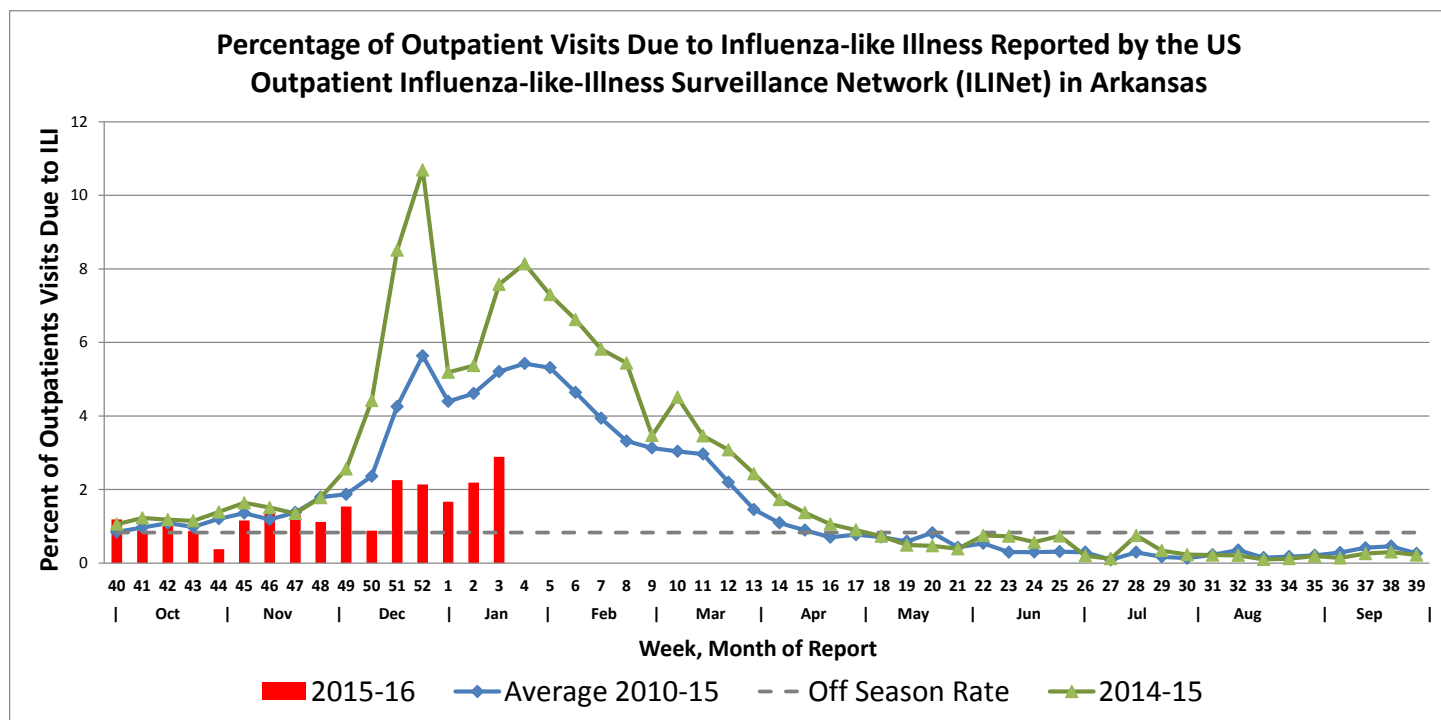


* All seasons range from week 40 to week 39 except 2009-2010 started week 36
Source: ADH Immunization Section, Center for Health Statistics

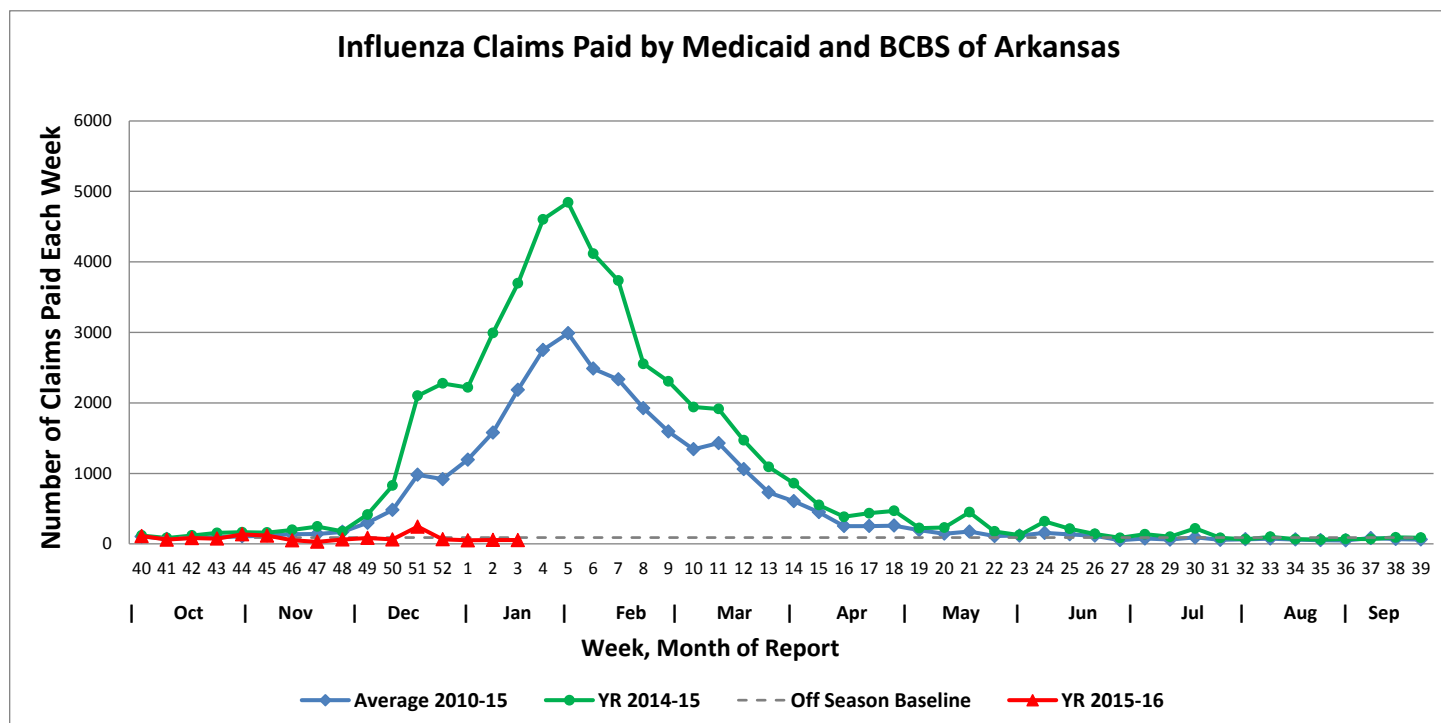
Hospital Report – ER Visits With Influenza-Like-Illness (ILI)



US Outpatients Influenza Surveillance (ILINET)

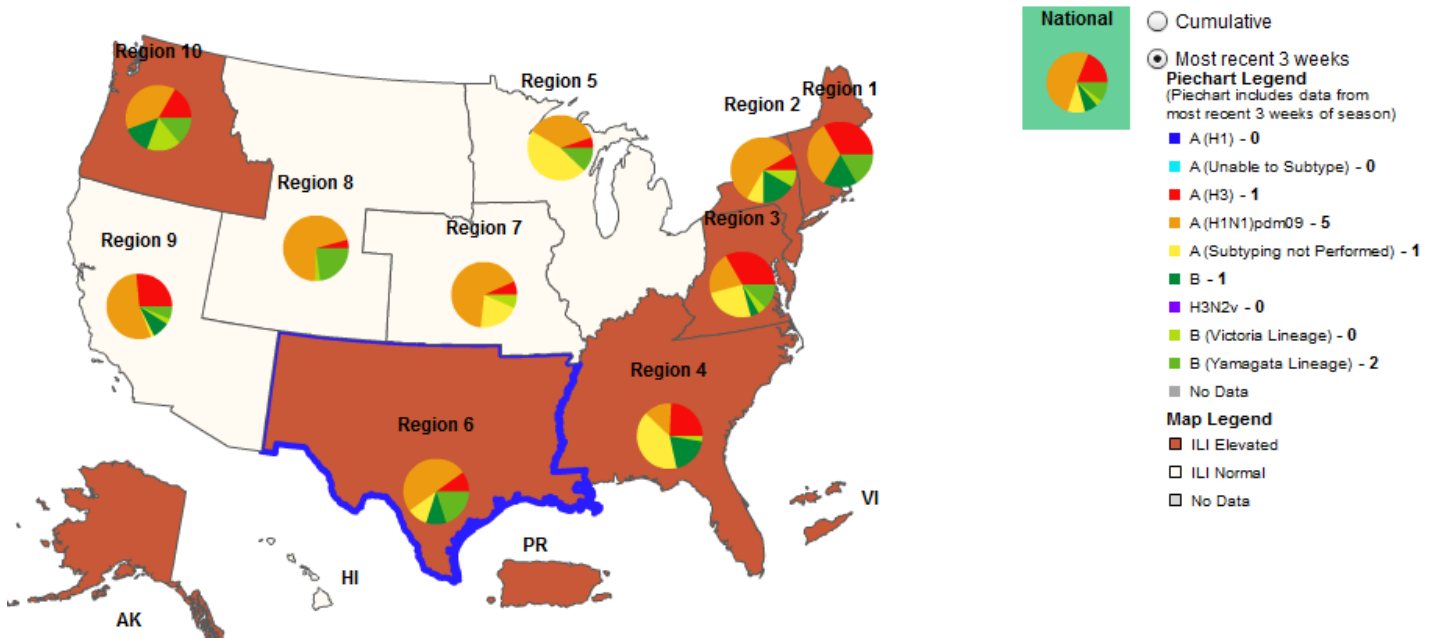


Weekly Influenza Claims Paid by Medicaid and Blue Cross and Blue Shield (BCBS) of Arkansas



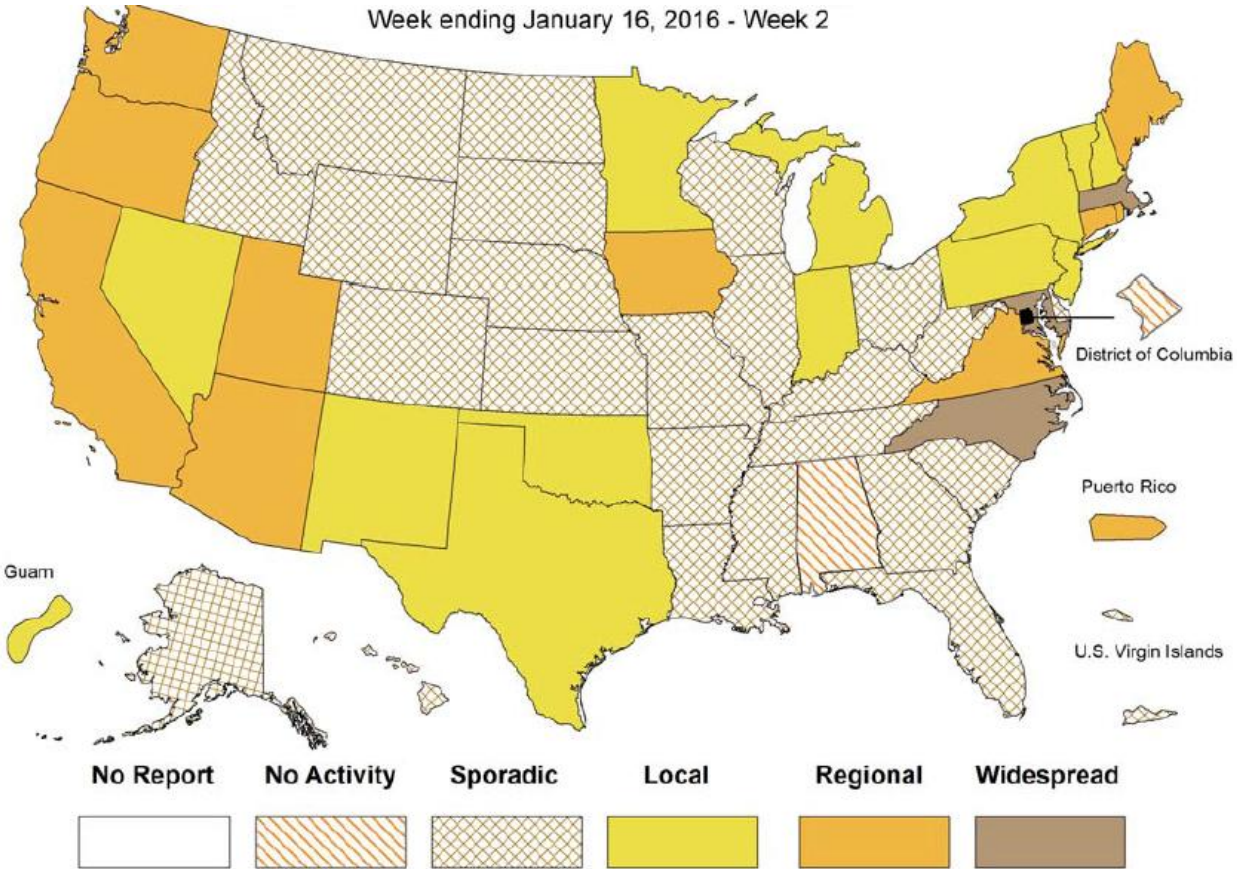
Influenza Positive Tests Reported to CDC and ILI Activity, by HHS Region, 2015-2016 Season, Week Ending Jan 15, 2016

Values in legend is for the highlighted HHS region (Region 6)



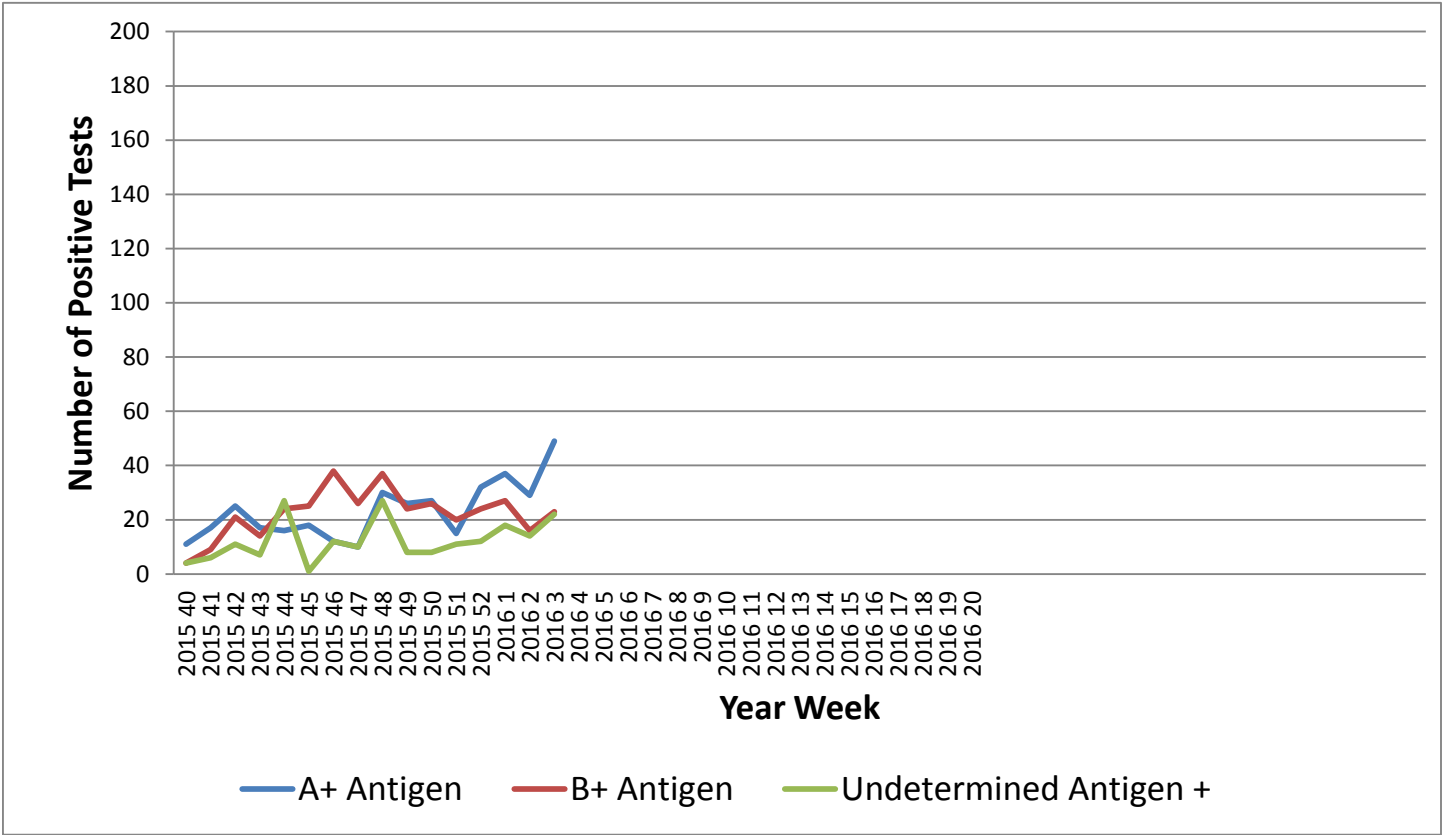
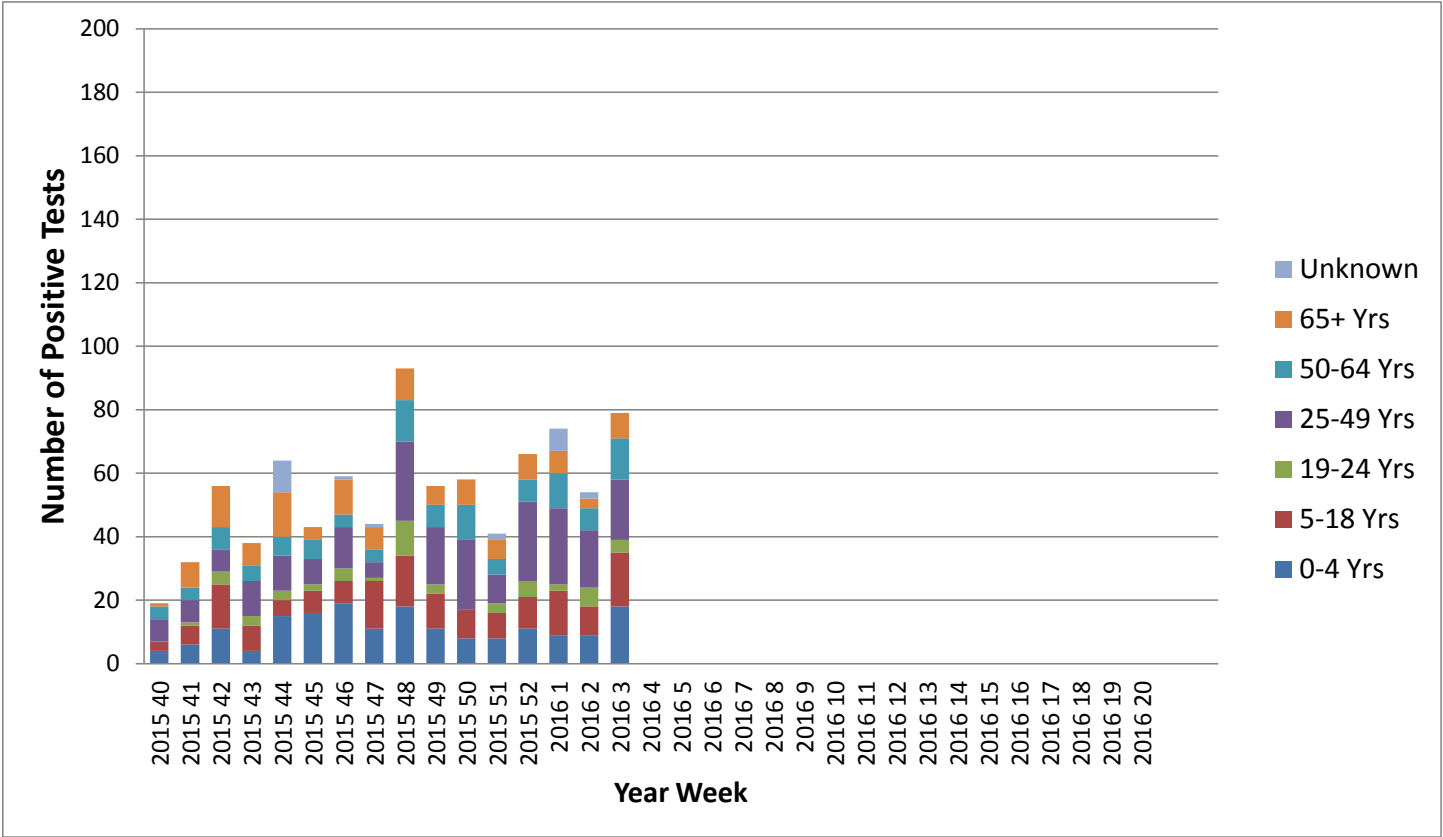
Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State and Territorial Epidemiologists

Week ending January 16, 2016 - Week 2



Arkansas Flu Activity Level Reported for Week 3: Local

Antigen Report:



Influenza Positive Tests Reported to CDC by U.S. Public Health Laboratories, National Summary, 2015-16 Season

